

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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R 301310Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6471

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

COMIDEASTFOR

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 2754

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, YE

SUBJECT: ARMS SALES

REF: LONDON 14969

1. SEE NO RPT NO ADVANTAGE IN DISCUSSING OUR PROSPECTIVE ARMS SALES WITH YEMENI OFFICIALS IN LONDON. BELIEVE ALL DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT SHOULD BE CONDUCTED IN US, SAUDI ARABIA AND YEMEN.

2. DEFER TO DEPT ON QUESTION WHAT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS MIGHT BE HELD WITH FCO. BELIEVE THAT FOR MOMENT AS RESULT OF CONTACTS WITH BRITISH DIPLOMATS IN WASHINGTON, SAMA, AND LONAGN, FCO SHOULD BE UP TO DATE ON GENERAL OUTLINES OF PAST AND PROSPECTIVE

US ARMS SALES TO YEMEN. FCO CERTAINLY KNOWS, FOR INSTANCE, THAT JEEPS WERE DELIVERED TO YEMEN IN TIME FOR INCLUSION OF NATIONAL DAY PARADE ON 26 SEPT BUT THAT IMPACT PACKAGE AWAITS OUTCOME OF GHASHMI'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA IN TWO WEEKS, AFTER ID AL-FITR. QUICK CHECK OF MESSAGE TRAFFIC ORIGINATING SANA SUGGESTS THAT EVERYTHING IMPORTANT ON SOVIET MILITARY MISSION AND ARMS SALES PROGRAM HAS BEEN INFO LONDON. WE ARE, HOWEVER, POUCHING ONE RECENT CABLE SANA 2453 WHICH DID NOT GO TO LON-
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DON.

3. WE MIGHT, HOWEVER, FLAG ONE ISSUE WHICH WE BELIEVE SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH UK. WE DO NOT WANT TO ENCOURAGE UKG TO CONDUCT SURVEY OF YAR FORCES LEST THIS DELAY FURTHER SAUDI AGREEMENT TO FINANCE CERTAIN NEW EQUIPMENT FOR ARMED FORCES HERE. WE MIGHT WANT TO TELL BRITS, HOWEVER, THAT WE NEVER-THELESS SEE A POSSIBLE ROLE FOR THEM OF FUTURE ARMS SALES TO YEMEN. OUR INTEREST HERE IS MOST RAPID POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF DEPENDENCE ON SOVIET ARMS SOURCES TO WESTERN SOURCES AND WITH OTHER WORLDWIDE DEMANDS ON DOD AND COMMERCIAL SUPPLIERS IN US FOR ARMS WE ARE NOT SSRE WE COULD BE EXCLUSIVE SUPPLIER FOR YEMEN EVEN IF WE WANTED TO BE. THEREFORE, TO HEAD OFF WHAT WE KNOW IS CONTINUING PRESSURE FOR FULL SCALE BRITISH SURVEY, WHICH BOTH SAUDIS AND YEMENIS ASKED FOR, WE THINK WE SHOULD REITERATE TO BRITISH NOW OUR WILLINGNESS TO CONSULT WITH THEM FULLY ABOUT ROLE IN ARMS SALES HERE AFTER THE GHASHMI VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA. IN THIS REGARD, BRITISH MAY ALREADY BE TALKING TO YEMENIS ABOUT ARMS BECAUSE BRITISH AMB INFORMED AMB ON SEPT 29 THAT HE WAS SCHEDULED FOR MEETING WITH BOTH FONMIN AND CHIEF OF STAFF PRIOR TO FONMIN'S DEPARTURE TO UN AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO LONDON. VISITING BRITISH MILITARY STATION IN JIDDA WAS APPARENTLY ALSO INVOLVED IN THIS MEETING.

SCOTES

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